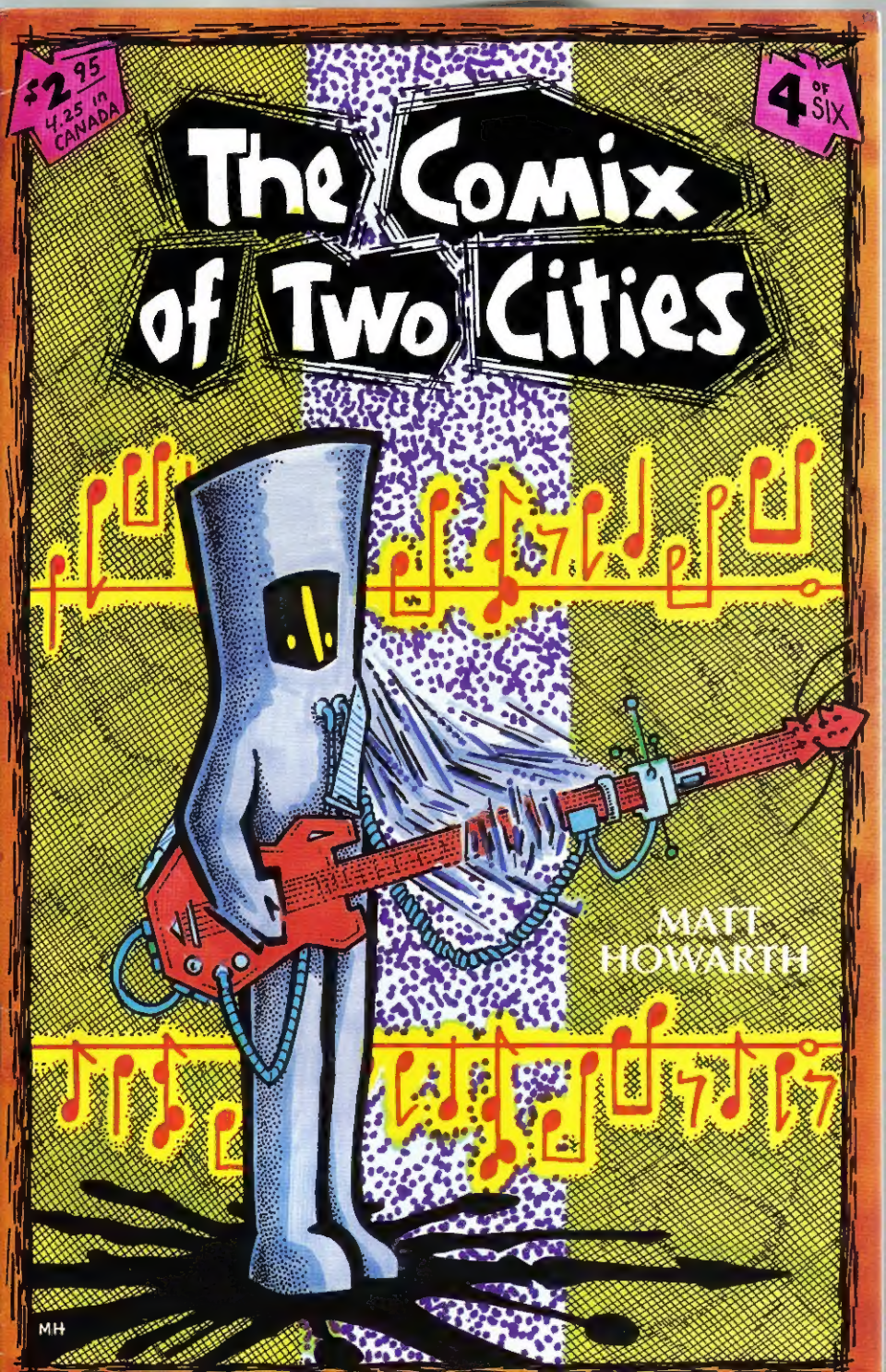
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4 OF SIX
The Comix of Two Cities
MATT HOWARTH
MH

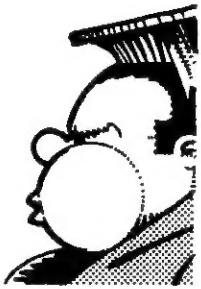
One world...two cities...two cultures

Oppression

Revolution

Conflict

It's MOLE vs. CHUB



in

The Comix of Two Cities

by

Matt Howarth

based on life-forms created by THE RESIDENTS

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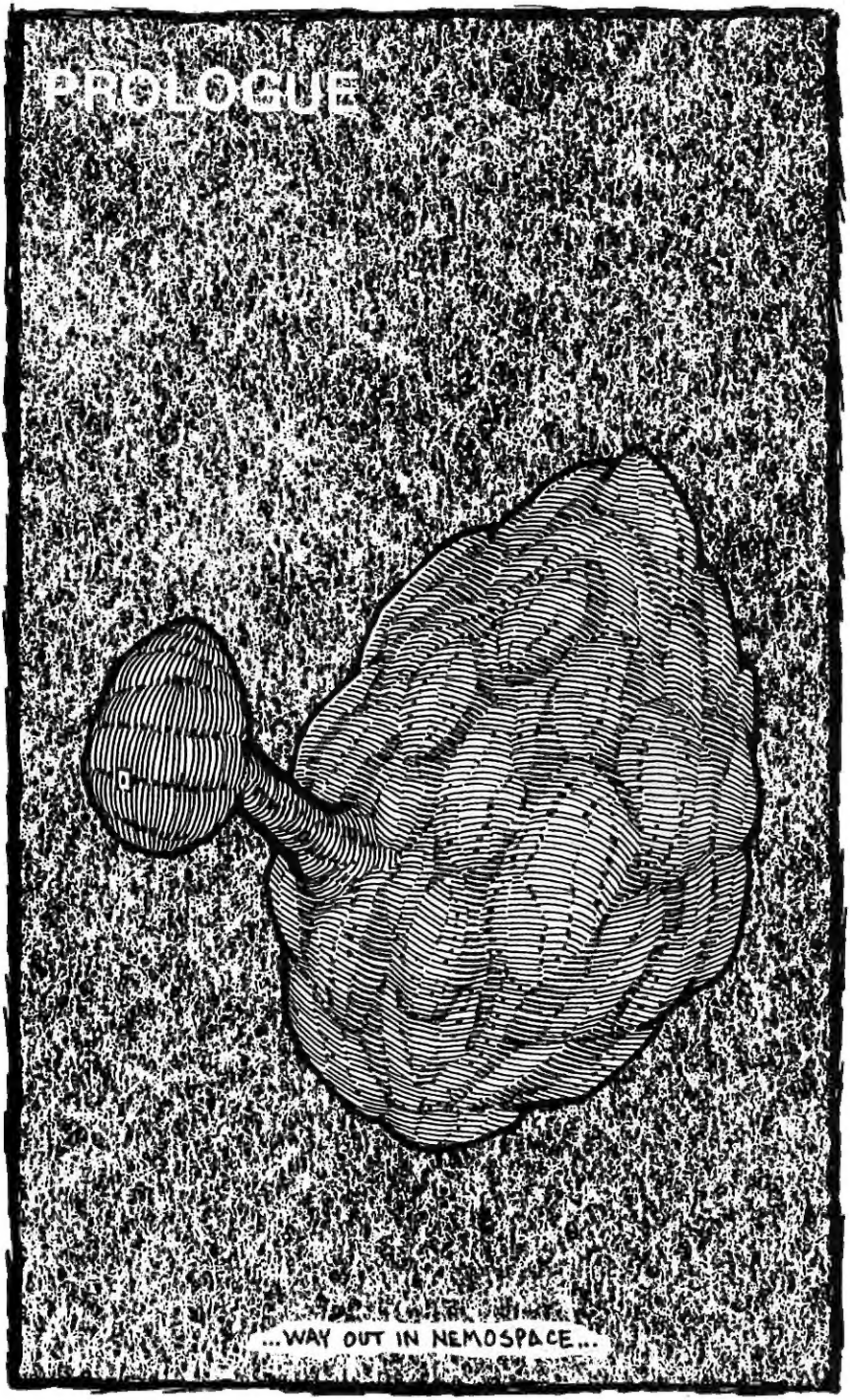
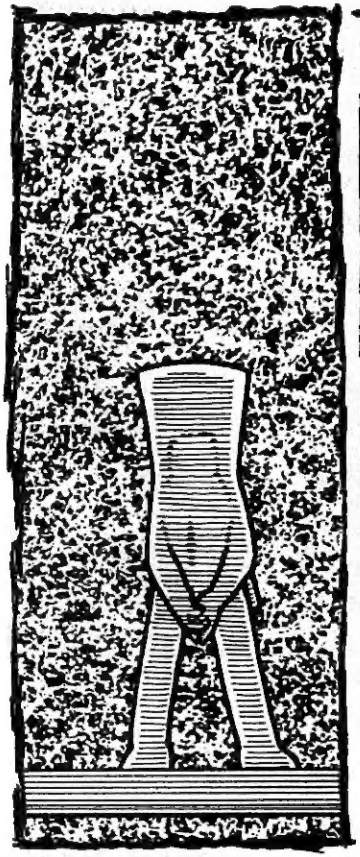
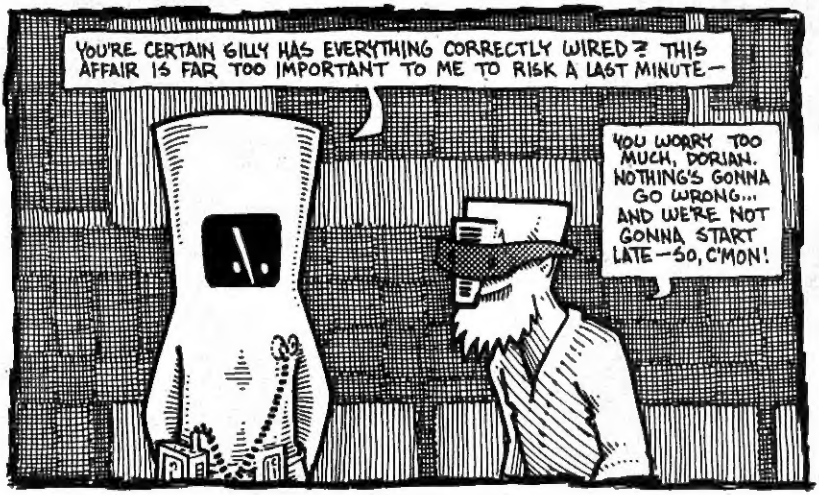
THIS IS NOT PART THREE OF THE RESIDENTS' MOLE TRILOGY.

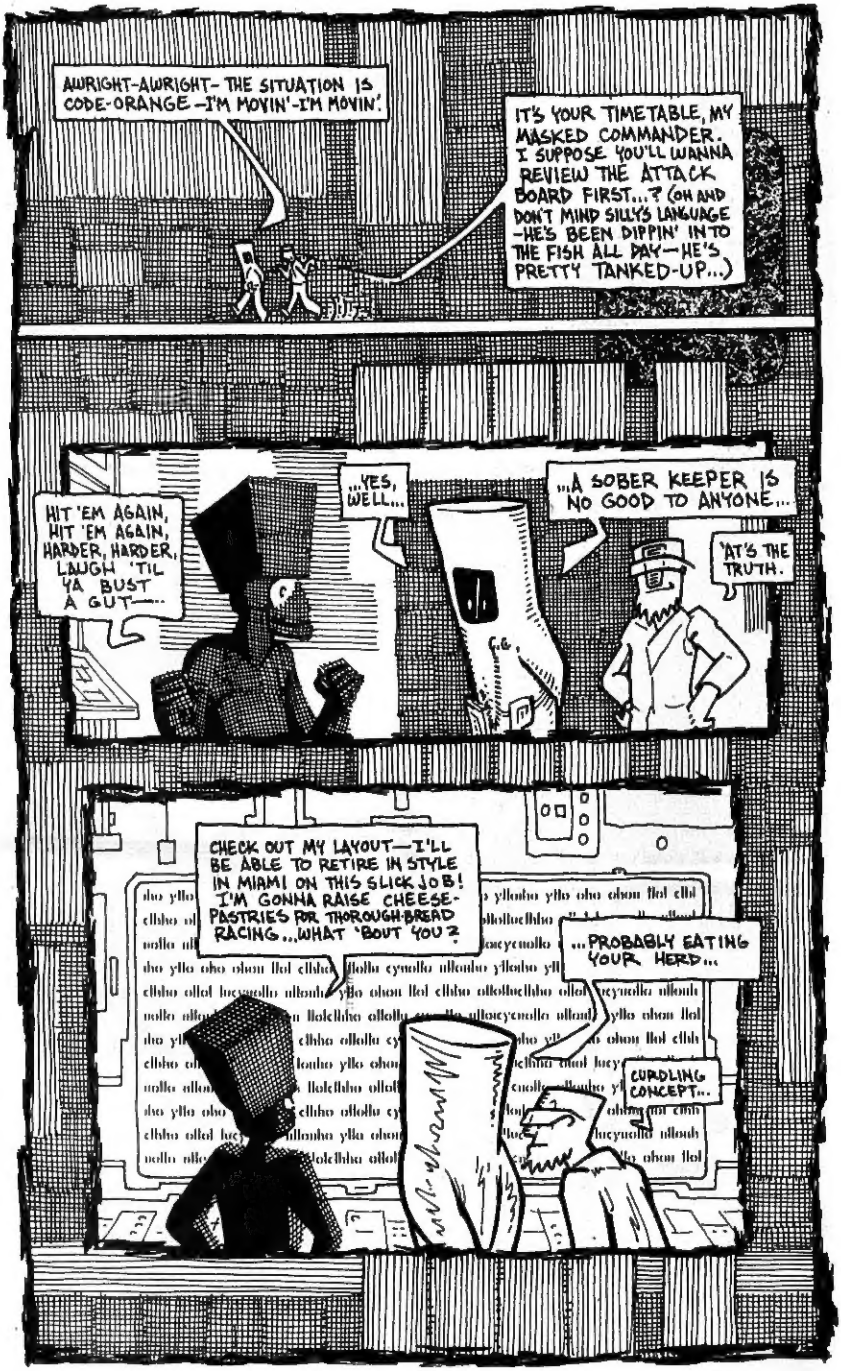
First Printing. MUPubs #317.

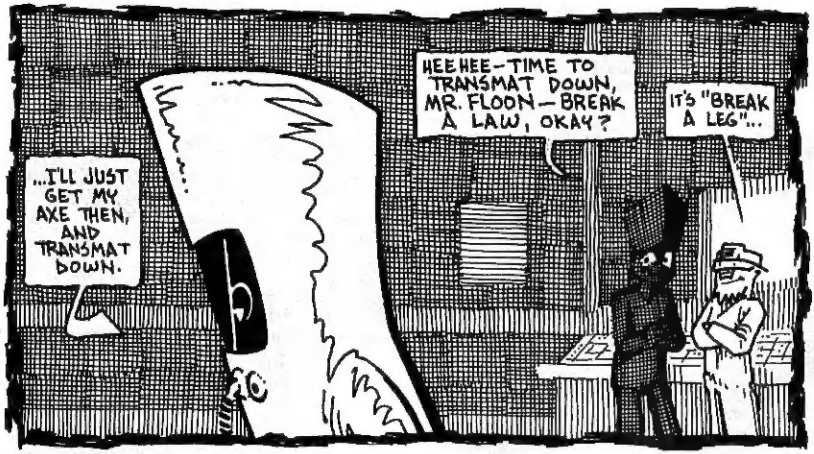

PROLOGUE
...WAY OUT IN NEMOSPACE...

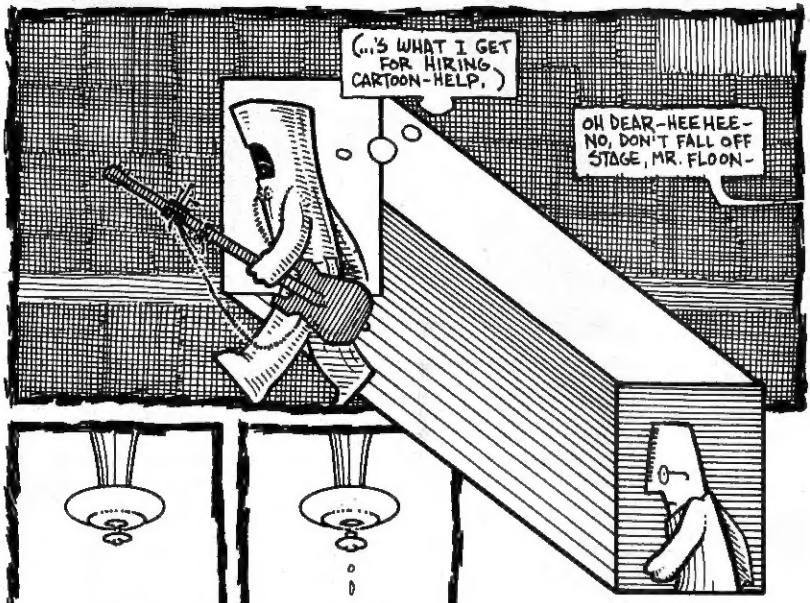


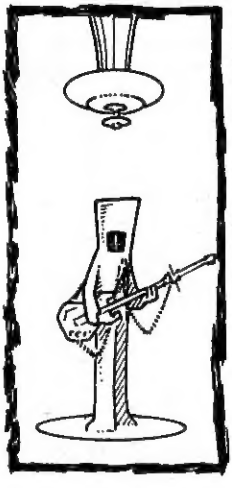
...I WAS JUST WATCHING THE PICK-UPS GET IN POSITION...
SILLY SENT ME TO FETCH YOU, DORIAN. WE'RE READY TO GO.

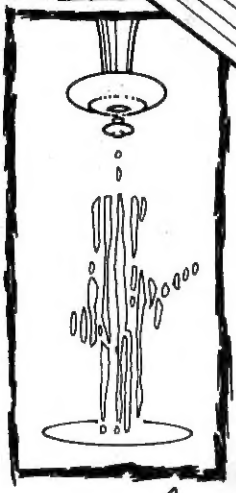

YOU'RE CERTAIN GILLY HAS EVERYTHING CORRECTLY WIRED? THIS AFFAIR IS FAR TOO IMPORTANT TO ME TO RISK A LAST MINUTE—
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, DORIAN. NOTHING'S GONNA GO WRONG... AND WE'RE NOT GONNA START LATE—SO, C'MON!


AWRIGHT-AWRIGHT- THE SITUATION IS CODE-ORANGE -I'M MOVIN'-I'M MOVIN'.
IT'S YOUR TIMETABLE, MY MASKED COMMANDER. I SUPPOSE YOU'LL WANNA REVIEW THE ATTACK BOARD FIRST...? (OH AND DON'T MIND SILLY'S LANGUAGE -HE'S BEEN DIPPIN' IN TO THE FISH ALL DAY—HE'S PRETTY TANKED-UP...)
HIT 'EM AGAIN, HIT 'EM AGAIN, HARDER, HARDER, LAUGH 'TIL YA BUST A GUT—...
...YES, WELL...
...A SOBER KEEPER IS NO GOOD TO ANYONE...
'AT'S THE TRUTH.
CHECK OUT MY LAYOUT—I'LL BE ABLE TO RETIRE IN STYLE IN MIAMI ON THIS SLICK JOB! I'M GONNA RAISE CHEESE-PASTRIES FOR THOROUGH-BREAD RACING...WHAT 'BOUT YOU?
...PROBABLY EATING YOUR HERD...
CURDLING CONCEPT...





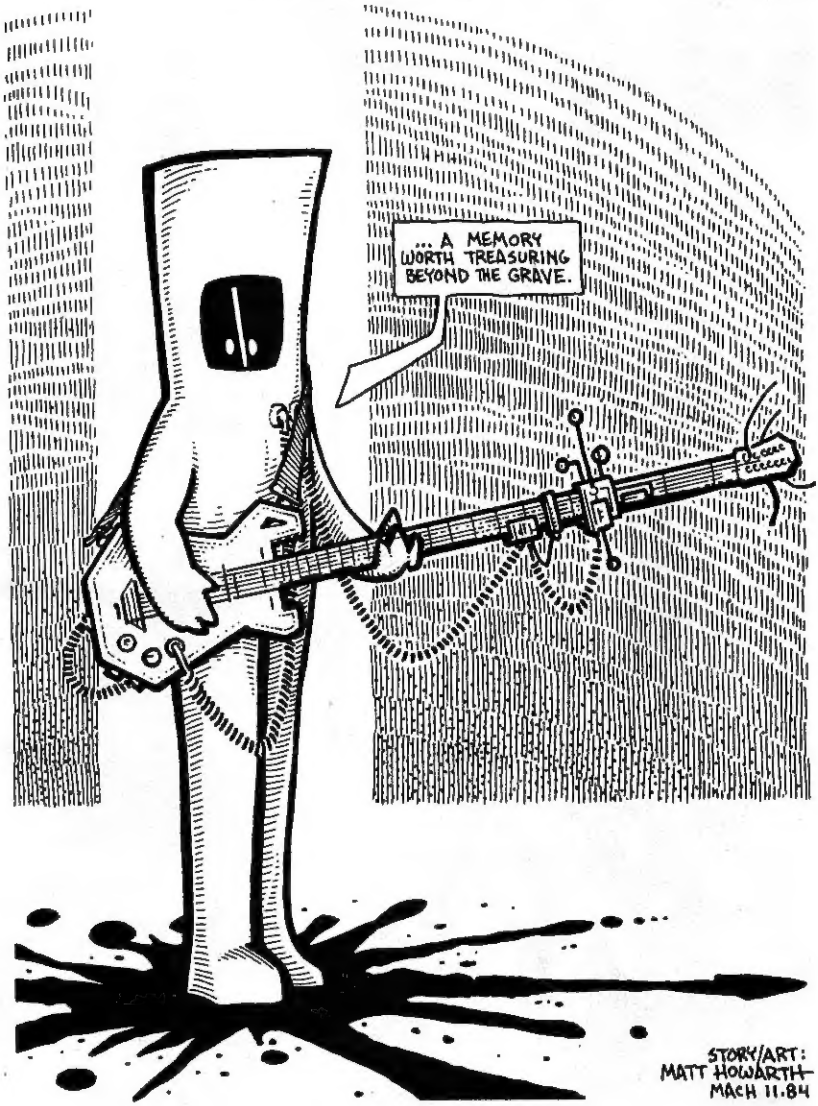




THIS IS DORIAN FLOON, ON HIS WAY TO THE BIGGEST NIGHT OF HIS LIFE. IF YOU COULD SEE BENEATH HIS MASK, YOU WOULD FIND THAT HIS NERVOUSNESS IS A PRETENSE—NERVES OF FERNWOOD AND READY TO GO. YOU WOULD ALSO SEE THAT DORIAN IS SECRETLY PHREDDIE FLINTMOLE—BUT TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'D HAVE TO GO BACK AND READ "THE COMIX OF TWO CITIES" #1. **THIS** IS DORIAN'S NIGHT...

AND EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO...

AN EVENING WITH DORIAN FLOON



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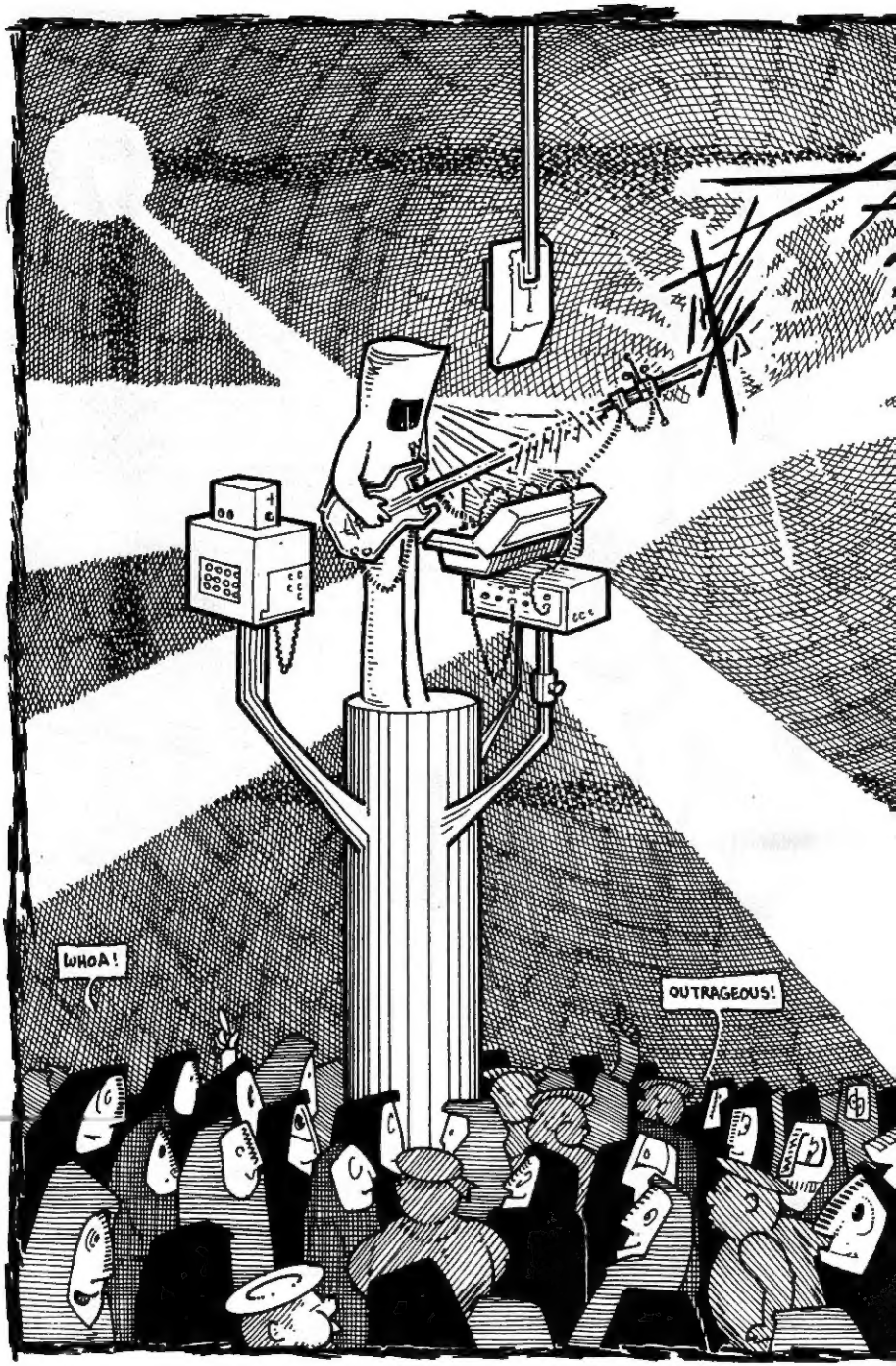
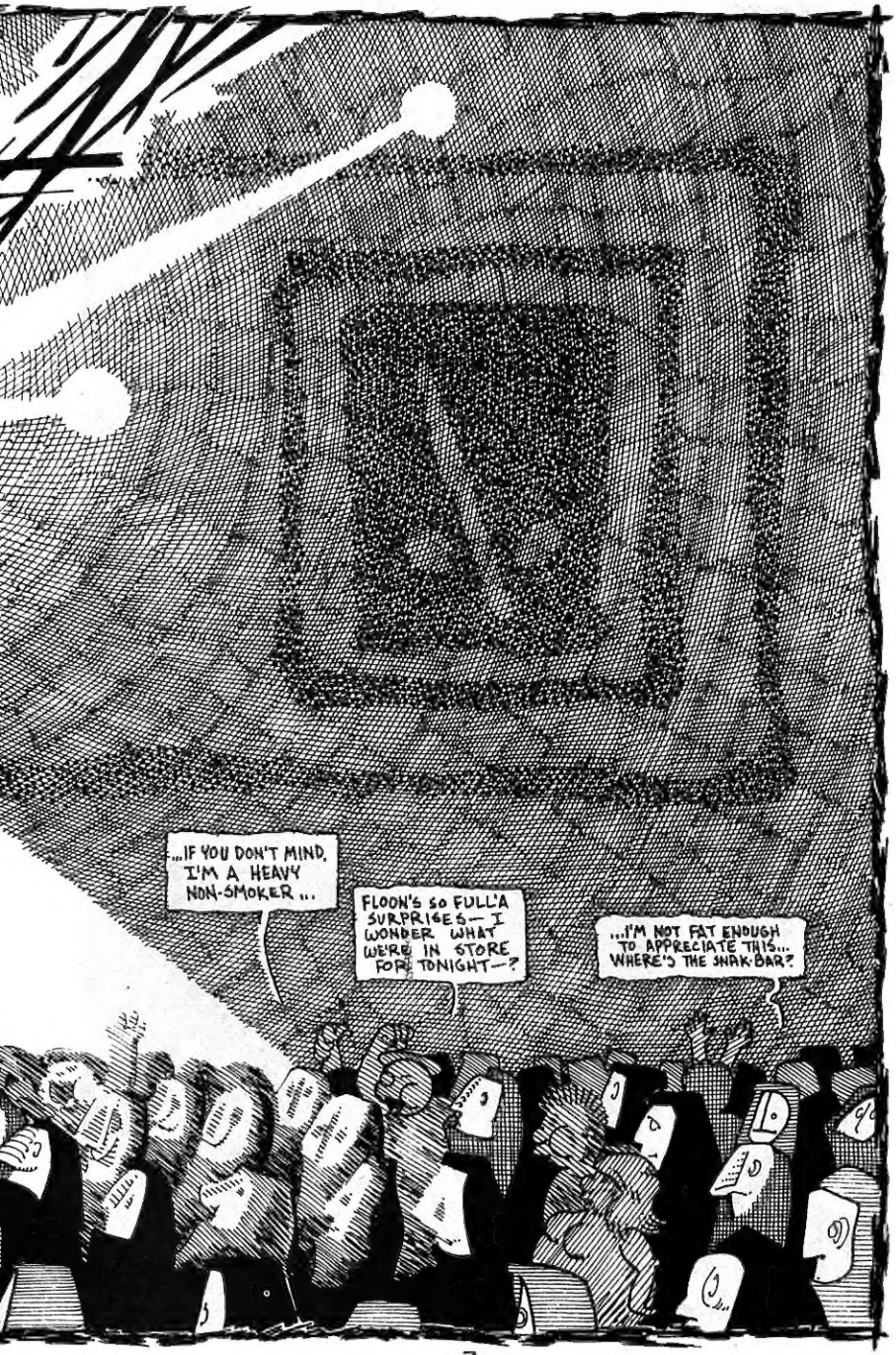
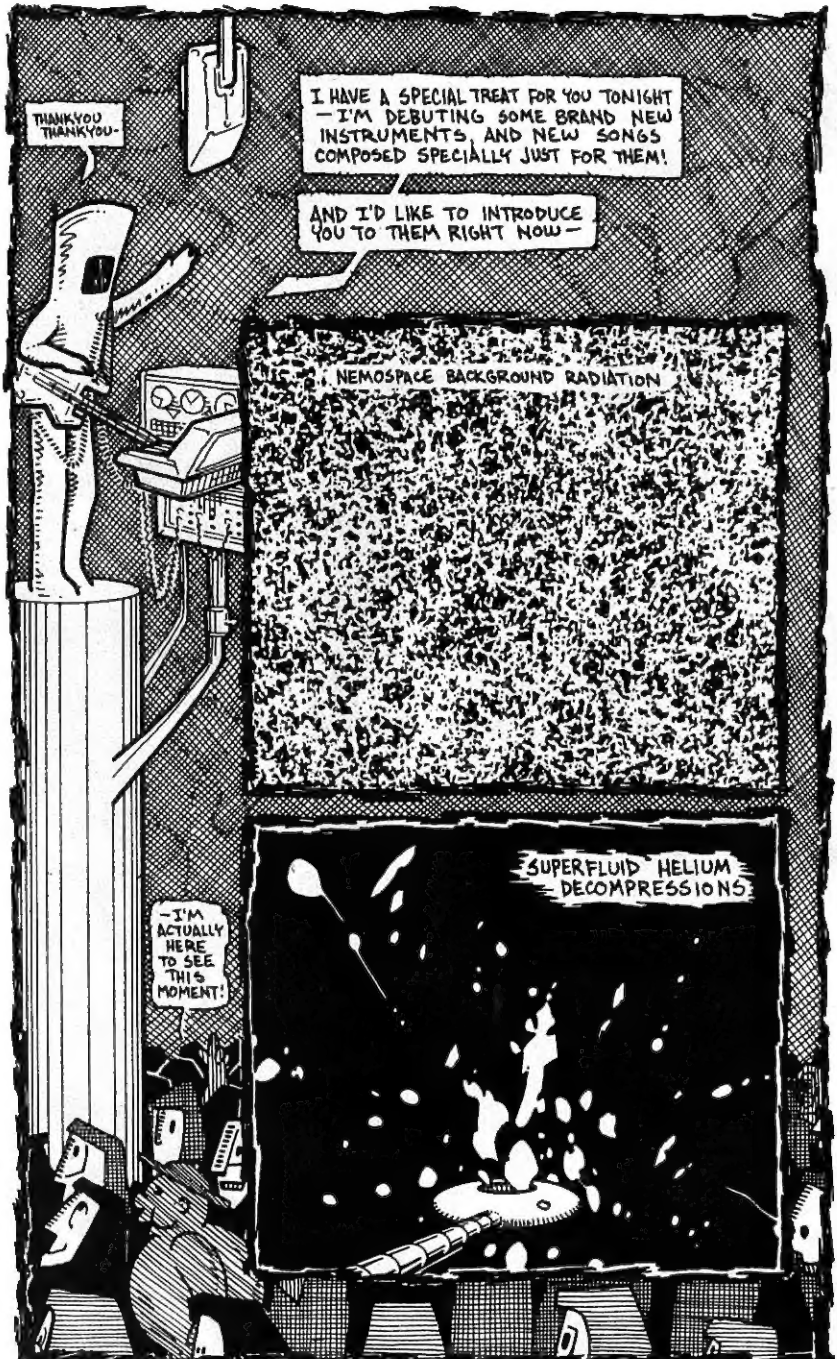
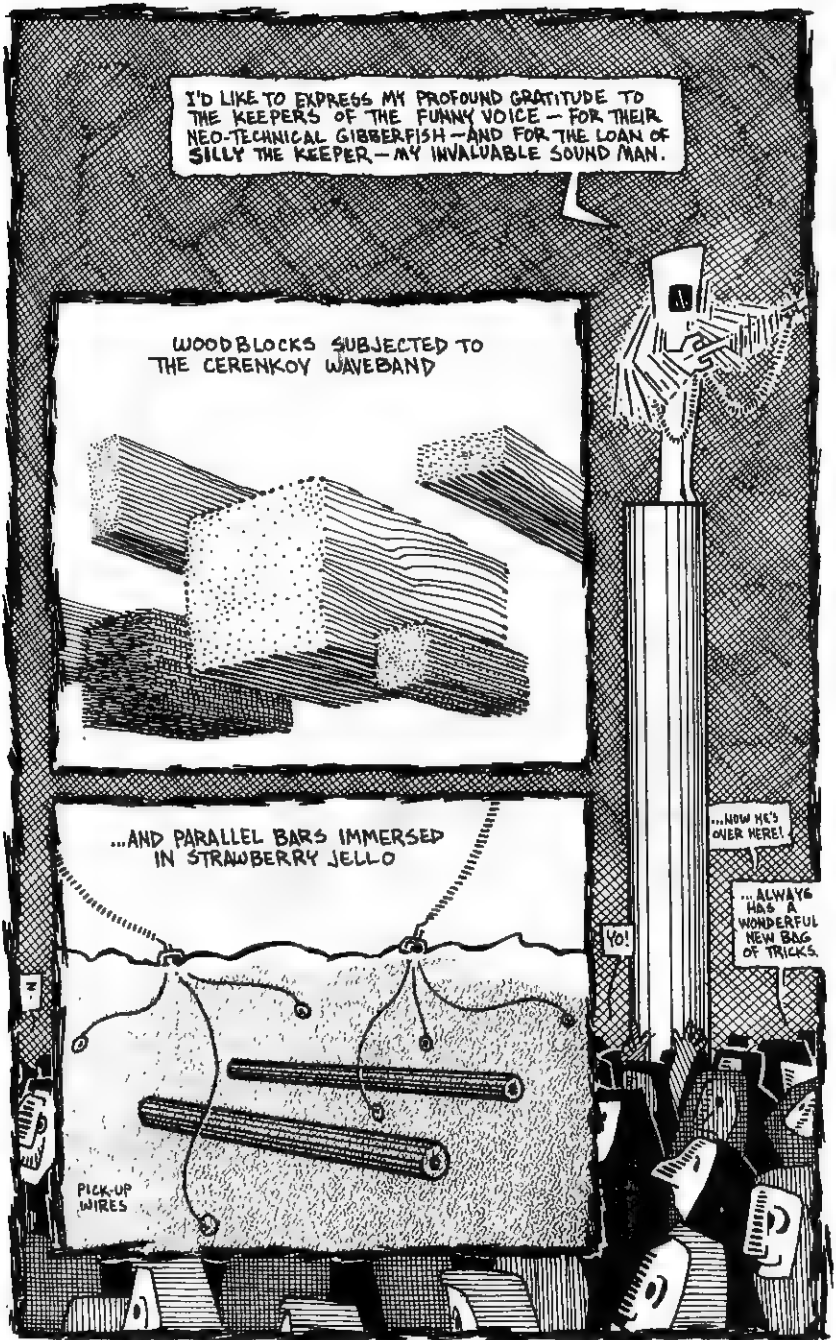
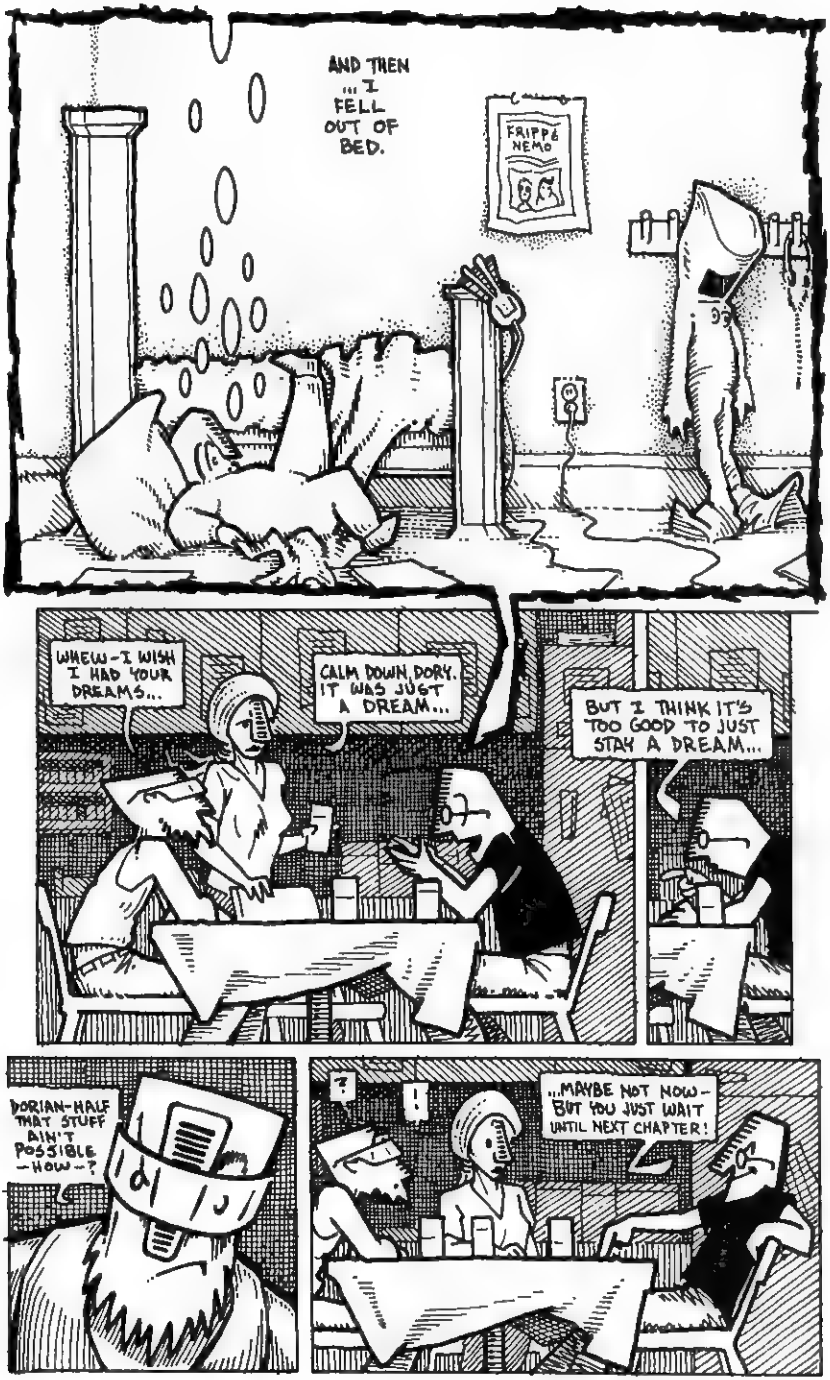
MATT HOWARTH
MACH 11.84

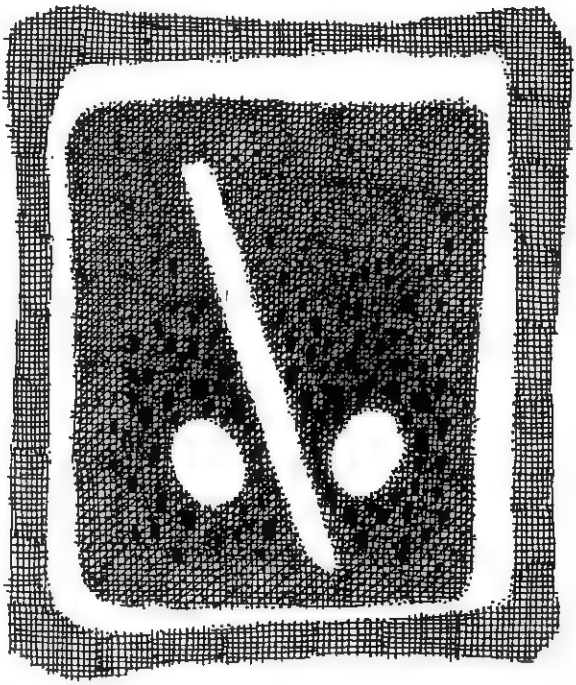

WHOA!
OUTRAGEOUS!


...IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'M A HEAVY NON-SMOKER...
FLOON'S SO FULL'A SURPRIGES— I WONDER WHAT WE'RE IN STORE FOR TONIGHT—?
...I'M NOT FAT ENOUGH TO APPRECIATE THIS... WHERE'S THE SNAK-BAR?


THANKYOU THANKYOU-
I HAVE A SPECIAL TREAT FOR YOU TONIGHT —I'M DEBUTING SOME BRAND NEW INSTRUMENTS, AND NEW SONGS COMPOSED SPECIALLY JUST FOR THEM!
AND I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THEM RIGHT NOW—
NEMOSPACE BACKGROUND RADIATION
SUPERFLUID HELIUM DECOMPRESSIONS
—I'M ACTUALLY HERE TO SEE THIS MOMENT!


I'D LIKE TO EXPRESS MY PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO THE KEEPERS OF THE FUNNY VOICE — FOR THEIR NEO-TECHNICAL GIBBERFISH — AND FOR THE LOAN OF SILLY THE KEEPER — MY INVALUABLE SOUND MAN.
WOODBLOCKS SUBJECTED TO THE CERENKOV WAVEBAND
...AND PARALLEL BARS IMMERSED IN STRAWBERRY JELLO
PICK-UP WIRES
...NOW HE'S OVER HERE!
... ALWAYS HAS A WONDERFUL NEW BAG OF TRICKS.
YO!


AND THEN ... I FELL OUT OF BED.
FRIPPÉ NEMO
WHEW - I WISH I HAD YOUR DREAMS...
CALM DOWN, DORY. IT WAS JUST A DREAM...
BUT I THINK IT'S TOO GOOD TO JUST STAY A DREAM...
DORIAN - HALF THAT STUFF DAIN'T POSSIBLE - HOW - ?
?
!
...MAYBE NOT NOW - BUT YOU JUST WAIT UNTIL NEXT CHAPTER!



HE'S BACK!
AND THIS TIME HE'S

DORIAN FLOON

the salt chamber

an
ARCHEOLOGICAL NOTEBOOK
concerning
the discoveries of
Sir Eldritch Palmer-Hite

TEXT/ART: MATT HOWARTH
EVIDENCE: M. PASSMANN
BASED ON LIFE-FORMS CREATED BY:
THE RESIDENTS.
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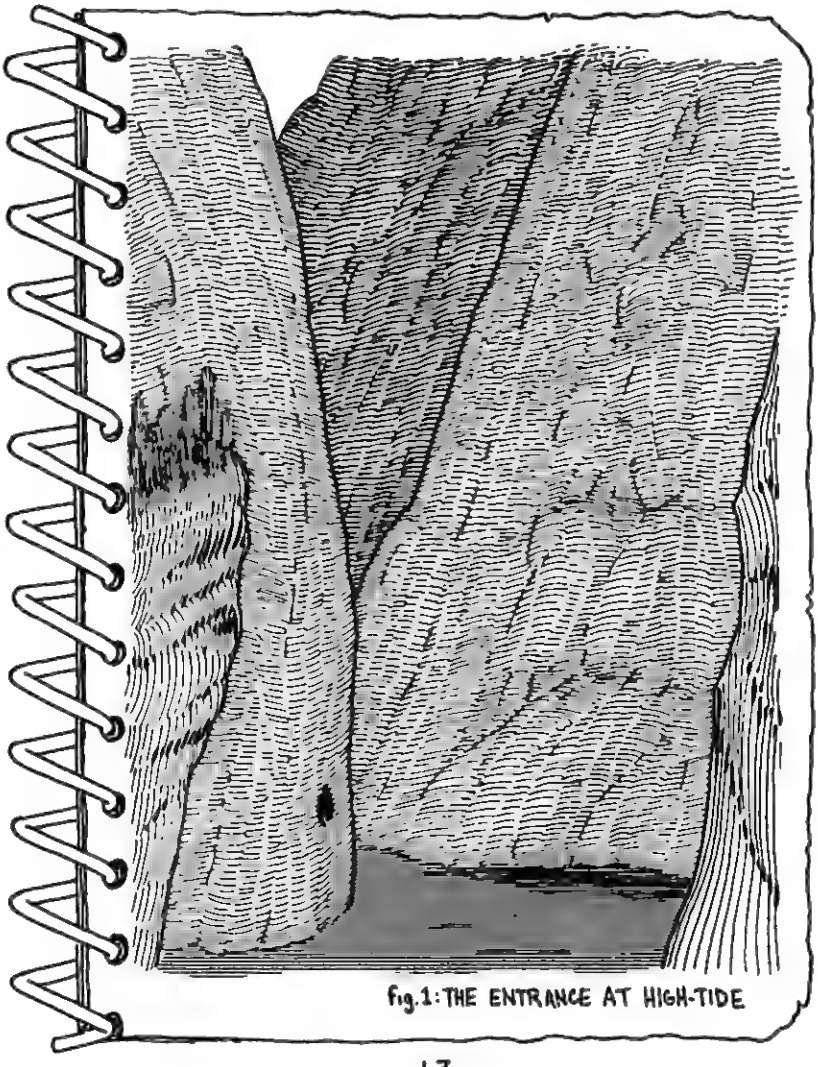


Fig.1: THE ENTRANCE AT HIGH-TIDE

THE ANCIENT **SALT CHAMBER** OF WETTER **FERNROHR** WAS DISCOVERED BY SIR ELDRITCH PALMER-HITE IN 1782 (A.C.)...AND AGAIN IN 1789.

ATTEMPTING TO COMPILE EVIDENCE FOR A THESIS, SIR PALMER-HITE CAME TO FERNROHR IN 1782 TO STUDY THE DENTAL HISTORIES OF THE UPLAND SNIFFERS. IT WAS ON A FIELD-TRIP WITH A GROUP OF THESE SNIFFERS THAT SIR PALMER-HITE FIRST NOTICED THE CAVE-LIKE ENTRANCE.

SEVEN YEARS LATER, WHILE VACATIONING WITH HIS NEPHEW DAVID WINTERLING, SIR PALMER-HITE'S IDLE CURIOSITY DROVE HIM TO MAKE THE MOST PUZZLING ARCHEOLOGICAL FIND IN CHUB HISTORY.

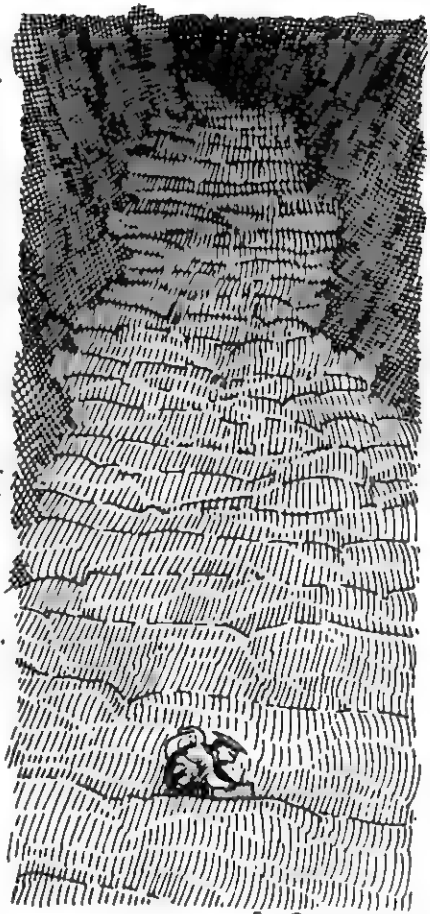
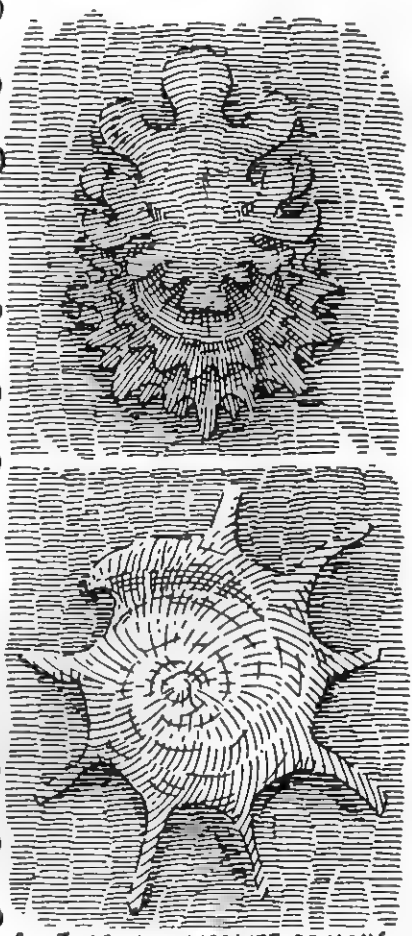


fig: 2: THE STEPS



Figs. 3 and 4: THE BASRELIEF DESIGNS

THE STEPS THAT LEAD DOWN INTO THE MOUNTAIN PROVED TO BE CYCLOPEAN IN SCALE — AND SEEMINGLY ENDLESS IN THEIR DESCENT. TO THIS DAY, DESPITE REGULAR REMOVAL, A SLIGHTLY LUMINESCENT **SLIME** COLLECTS ON THE ROCKS, CAUSING HAZARDOUS FOOTING.

ALONG THE CEILING OF THE TUNNEL, A SERIES OF DESIGNS ←(SEEN AT LEFT) WERE DISCOVERED DECORATING THE PASSAGE. THESE BASRELIEFS MEASURE FOURTEEN AND A HALF METERS IN DIAMETER, - AND APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SCULPTED BY SOME CORROSIVE ACID, RATHER THAN THE CUSTOMARY CHISEL.

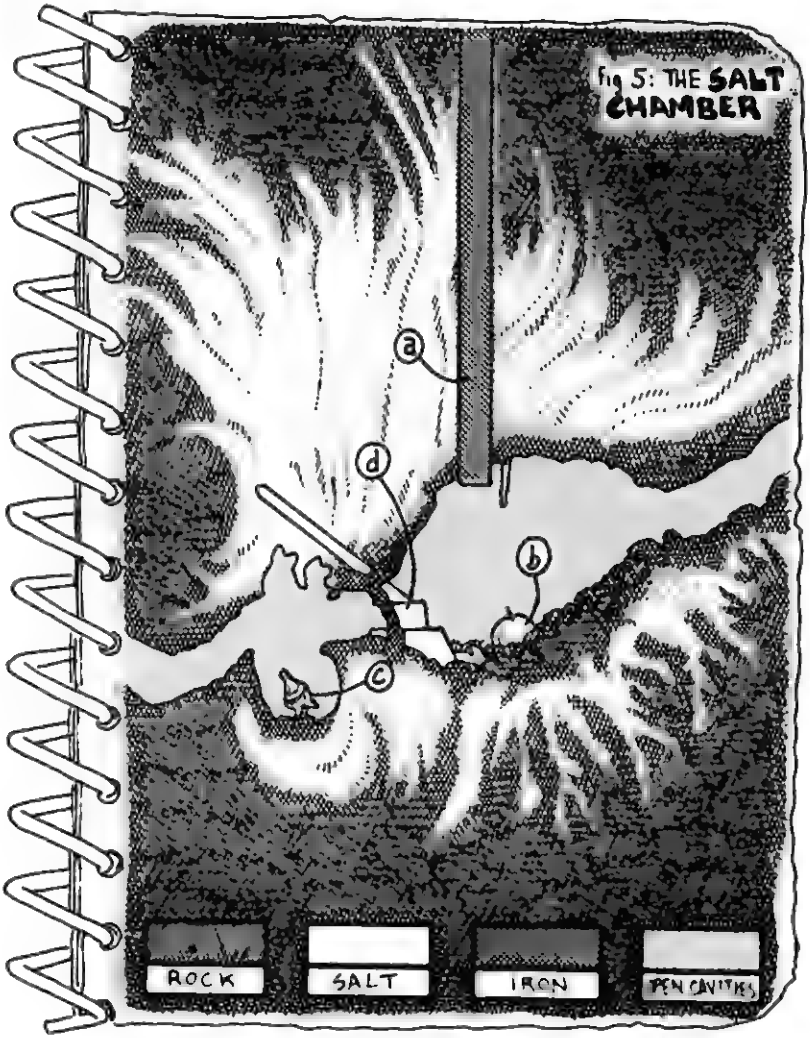
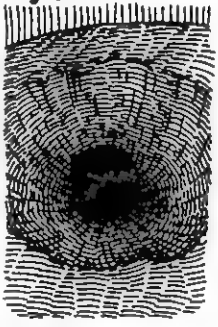


fig 5: THE SALT CHAMBER

THE SALT CHAMBER IS SO-NAMED BECAUSE OF THE STRANGELY CONCENTRATED SALT DEPOSIT THAT SURROUNDS THE BURIED HALL. ←AS SEEN IN FIGURE 5, THE SALT CHAMBER CONTAINS: ② THE **IRON STAFF** THAT IS EMBEDDED IN THE ROCK—ITS TIP JUST BENEATH THE CAP OF THE MOUNTAIN, ITS BASE PRODUDING FROM THE CAVERN'S CEILING. THE IRON STAFF MEASURES JUST OVER 7 HECTOMETERS LONG.

THE PRESENCE OF THE IRON STAFF IN THE ROCK IS CLEARLY ARTIFICAL. THE QUESTION OF **HOW** IT GOT THERE IS ENOUGH TO GIVE A STRUCTURAL ENGINEER PERMANENT NIGHTMARES.

Fig. 6: TOP



ABOVE: THE EXCAVATED TOP OF THE **IRON STAFF**.
BELOW: THE EXPOSED BASE OF THE STAFF IN THE SALT CHAMBER.

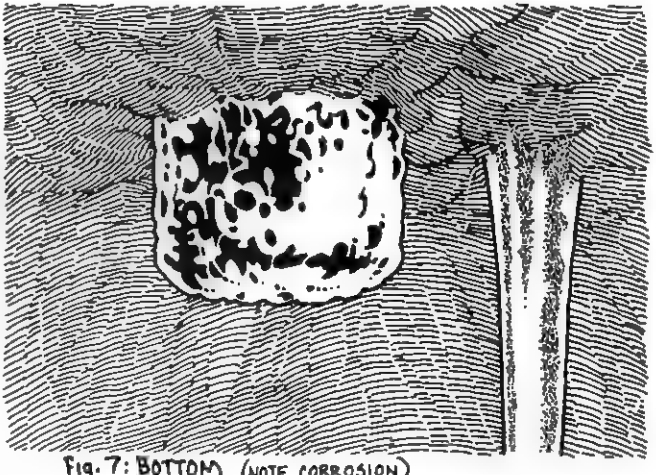
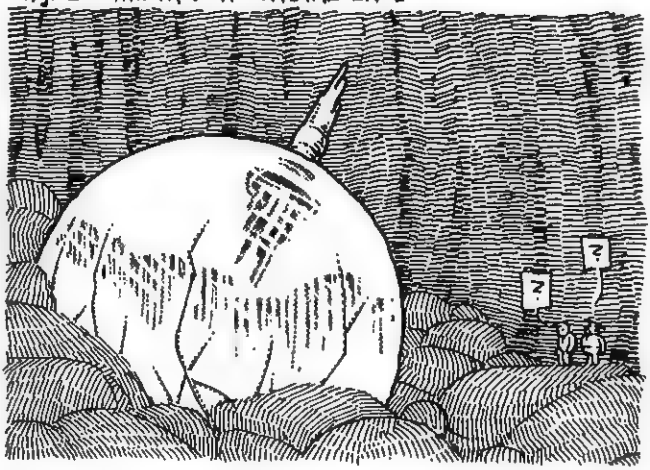


Fig. 7: BOTTOM (NOTE CORROSION)

fig. 8: THE FALLEN CRYSTAL BALL



MANUFACTURED OUT OF SOME IMPOSSIBLE CRYSTAL, THE FALLEN **BALL** (Ⓑ IN FIGURE 5)—ALTHOUGH CRACKED—IS IMPENETRABLE TO ALL BUT VISION. THE OBVIOUS CIRCUITRY WITHIN THE BALL REMAINS OUT OF REACH, CONFINING KNOWLEDGE TO CONJECTURE.

RECONSTRUCTION ON PAPER OF THE CHAMBER CLEARLY PLACES THE BALL IN THE UPPER REGIONS, WITH THE IRON STAFF.

THE FUNCTION OF THE BALL IS UNKNOWN.

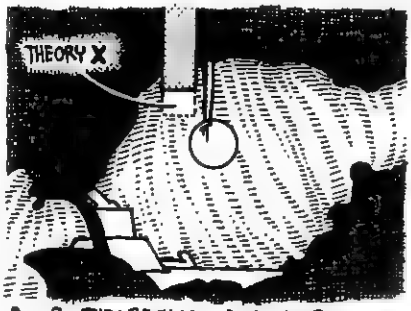


Fig. 9: THEORETICAL RECONSTRUCTION

DETERMINED TO IMPRESS HIS RICH UNCLE, DAVID WINTERLING PUBLISHED A PAPER ON **THEORY X**, WHICH CONCERNED THE SALT CHAMBER. WINTERLING'S MAIN POSTULATE WAS THAT THERE HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN MORE OF THE IRON STAFF PRESENT IN THE CAVERN, BUT THIS SECTION HAD DECAYED AWAY OVER THE LONG-EXPOSURE TO SALT.

DESPITE THE WIDE ACCEPTANCE OF THEORY X IN ACADEMIC CIRCLES, IT IS STILL UNEXPLAINED HOW THE REST OF THE IRON STAFF — ITSELF MORE DIRECTLY EXPOSED TO THE SALT — REMAINS UNAFFECTED BY THE CORROSION.

IF ONLY TO FURTHER ADD TO THE PHYSICAL CONFUSION, THE NEMO-PARTICLE DECAY-RATE OF THE IRON STAFF DATES IT AS NEARLY TWO MILLION YEARS OLDER THAN THE SALT DEPOSIT. WHILE THE CRYSTAL BALL DISPLAYS NO PRESENCE OF N-PARTICLES AT ALL... MEANING IT EITHER PREDATES THE UNIVERSE, OR IT ORIGINATES IN ANOTHER CONTINUUM.

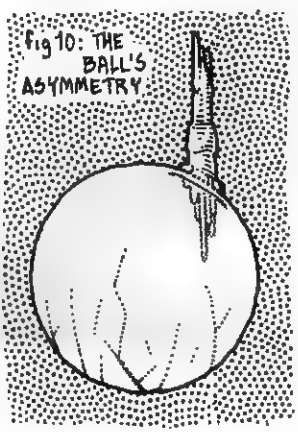


fig 10: THE BALL'S ASYMMETRY.

← SEEN AT LEFT, IN PROFILE, THE CRYSTAL BALL'S BROKEN ATTACHMENT IS ARRANGED IN A CURIOUS UNSYMMETRICAL POSITION.

could it be a lens?
E.P.H

BEHIND THE MAIN CAVERN IS ANOTHER TUNNEL, LEADING TO A SMALL AND STRANGELY EMPTY CAVE. IN THE ANTEROOM TO THIS SECOND, HIDDEN TUNNEL WAS FOUND THE ONLY LOOSE ARTIFACT (© IN FIGURE 5) OF THE FIND. UPON ANALYZING A SCRAPING, IT WAS LEARNED THAT THE ARTIFACT WAS A **BONE**.

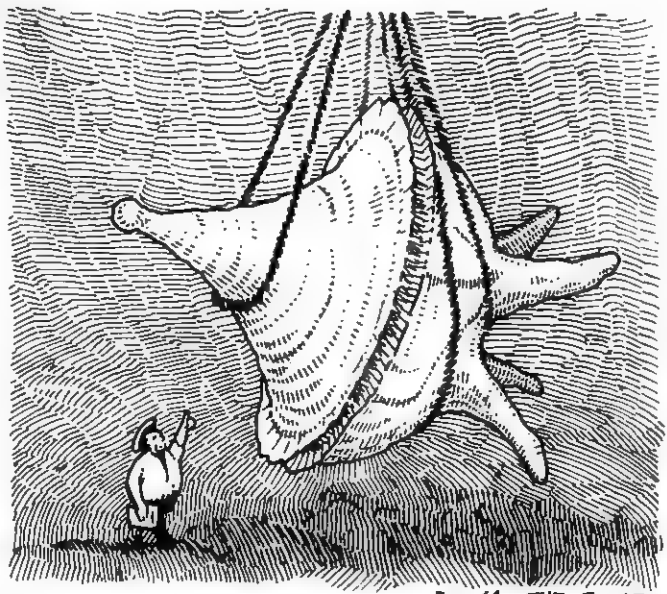


Fig. 11: THE BONE

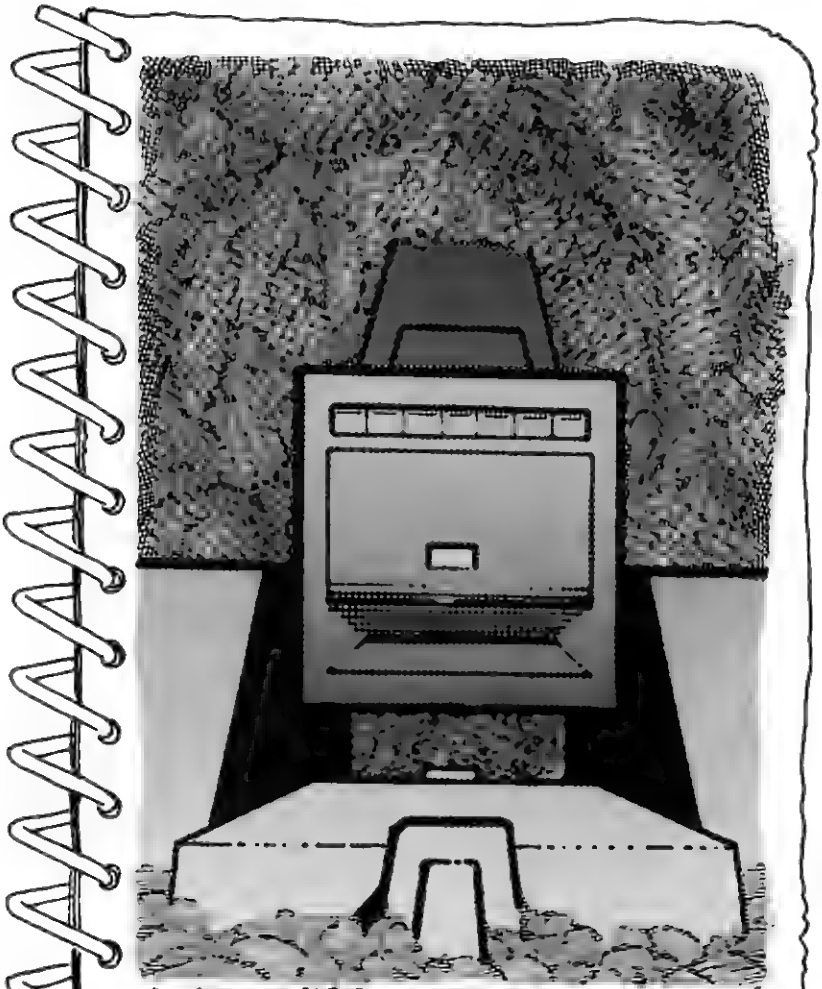


Fig 12. THE **ALTAR**, AS SEEN FROM THE FRONT

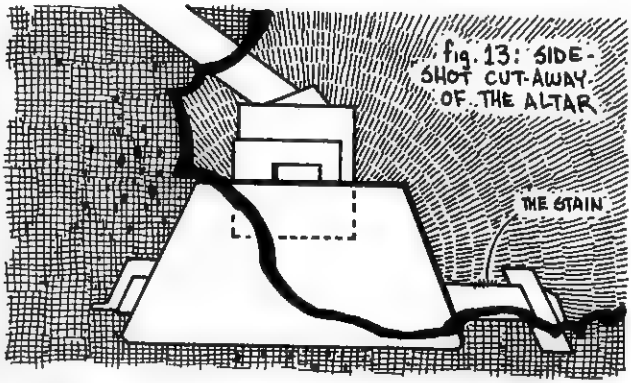


Fig. 13: SIDE-SHOT CUT-AWAY OF THE ALTAR

LOCATED IN THE REAR OF THE CENTRAL CAVERN, THE **ALTAR** (④ IN FIGURE 5) IS THE MOST IMPRESSIVE AND PUZZLING OF THE PARTS TO THE SALT CHAMBER.

CERTAINLY THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL ASPECT OF THE ALTAR IS THE ANCIENT **STAIN** FOUND DIRECTLY BEFORE THE BLOCK ON THE SURFACE OF THE BLOCK (SEE FIGURES 13 AND 14).

BIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THIS STAIN SHOWS IT TO CONTAIN BOTH CHUB AND MOLE **BLOOD** IN RANDOM DISTRIBUTION. THE BLOODSTAIN N-PARTICLE DATES AT 12 MILLION YEARS AGO, AS DOES THE ALTAR ITSELF.

RELIGIOUS FACTORS HAVE ESCALATED THIS STAIN INTO ABSOLUTE "PROOF" THAT BOTH CHUBS AND MOLES POSSESS SOULS.

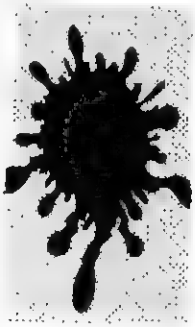


Fig. 14: THE STAIN

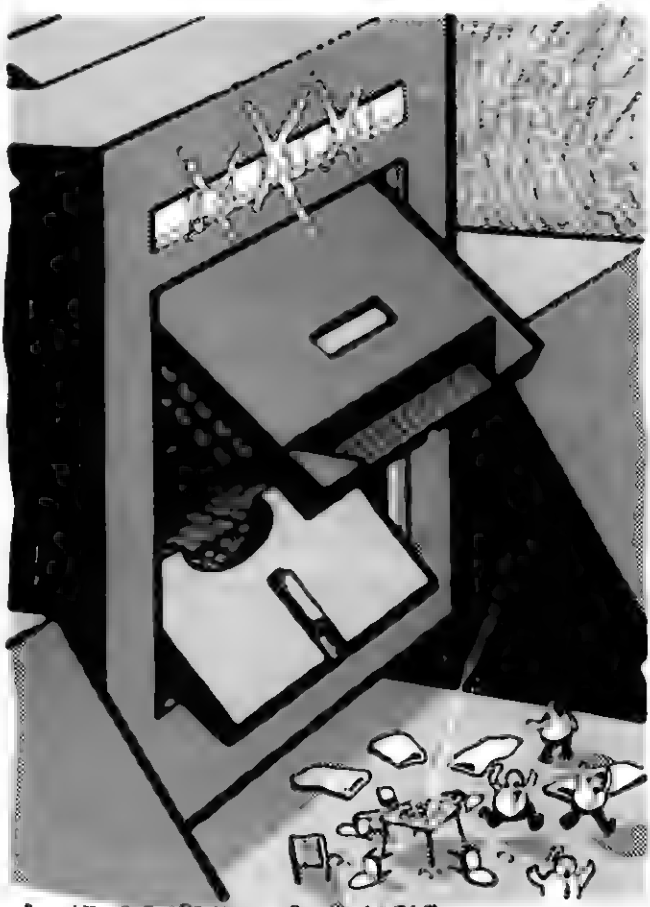


Fig. 15 : THE OPENING OF THE ALTAR

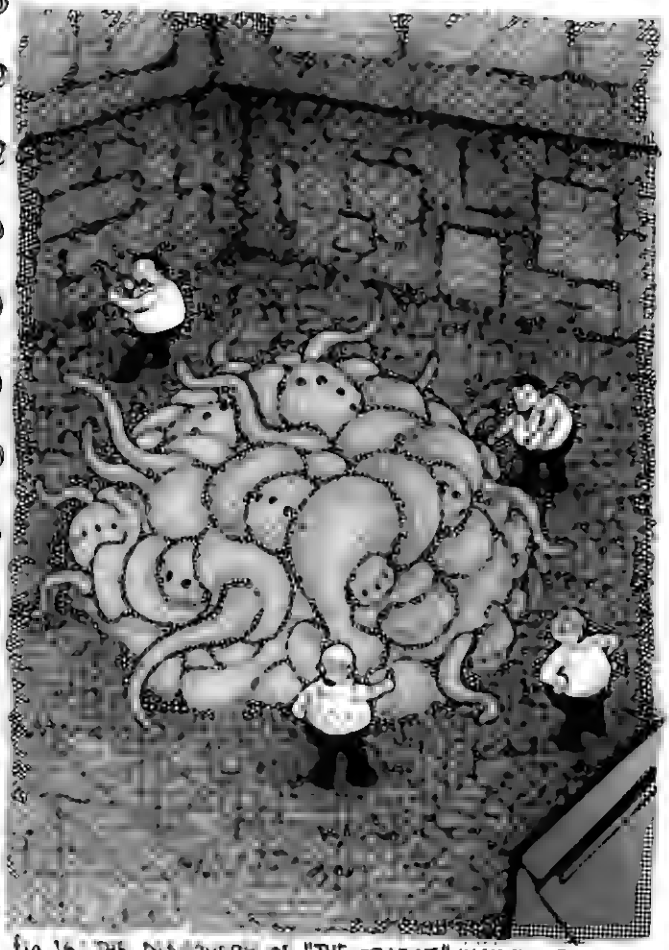


fig 16: THE DISCOVERY OF "THE OBJECT" INSIDE THE ALTAR

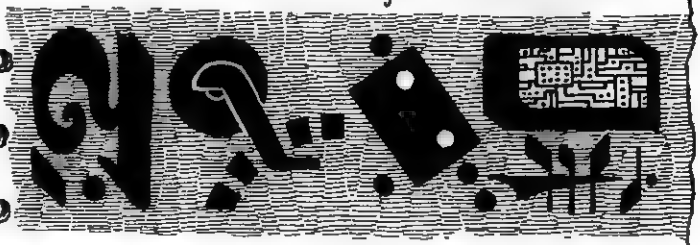
THE ALTAR OPENED ONE EVENING, AS SIR PALMER-HITE AND HIS ASSOCIATES SAT DOWN TO DINNER. (IT WAS LATER ASCERTAINED THAT THE ALTAR HAD REACTED TO A RADIO-SIGNAL FROM A WRIST-RADIO WORN BY ONE OF THE CREW—A PROFESSOR HINDENHUNTENHAABLE GOTT.)

IT WAS INSIDE THE ALTAR THAT SIR PALMER-HITE FOUND **THE OBJECT.**

IF HUNG SUSPENDED, THE OBJECT MEASURES SEVEN METERS IN DIAMETER, RESEMBLING A GROTESQUE CLUSTER OF INTER-TWINED TENDRILS AND NODULES. IT IS MADE OF ALUMINUM AND IS SEALED WITH A MOLECULE-THICK LAYER OF A PECULIAR PLASTIC. IT LIES IN AN INNER, WOOD-LINED CHAMBER IN THE ALTAR, IN A DEPRESSION FORM-FITTED TO ITS IRREGULAR SHAPE. LIKE THE BALL, THE OBJECT IS DEVOID OF N-PARTICLES.

ALLOWING TO ITS INCREDIBLE OBLIQUENESS, THE OBJECT IS CLEARLY THE MOST POPULAR MYSTERY IN CHUB ARCHEOLOGY. IT REMAINS UNFATHOMABLE EVEN TODAY.

fig. 17: THE FOUR SYMBOLS



ENGRAVED ON A PLATE LOCATED AT THE REAR OF THE ALTAR'S INNER CHAMBER WERE FOUND FOUR **SYMBOLS** IN SOME ALIEN LANGUAGE. 'GLYPHOLOGICAL SPECIALISTS CLAIM THAT EACH OF THE FOUR SYMBOLS REPRESENTS A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE.

THESE FOUR SYMBOLS REPRESENT THE SOLE ASPECT OF THE FERNROHR SALT CHAMBER TO NOT SHARE IN ITS GRANDIOSE SCALE. CLEARLY, THE SALT CHAMBER WAS CONSTRUCTED FOR USE BY CREATURES MUCH LARGER THAN CHUBS (OR MOLES). THE SHEER "OTHERNESS" OF IT ALL INDICATES THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN AN ANCIENT ALIEN RACE – THE IRON STAFF'S LACK OF CORROSION AND THE N-PARTICLE READING OF THE FALLEN CRYSTAL BALL CERTAINLY PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF A TECHNOLOGY VASTLY MORE ADVANCED THAN OURS.

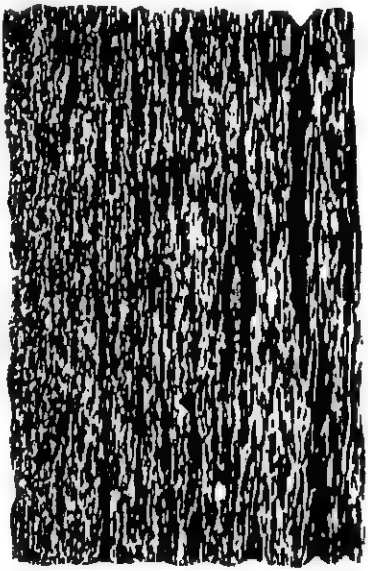


Fig. 18: A FERNWOOD PANEL

ALTHOUGH FURTHER IMPOSSIBILITIES ARE HARDLY NECESSARY, THIS REPORT WOULD BE REMISS TO IGNORE THE NEMO-PARTICLE DATING OF THE INTERIOR WOOD PANELS.

OUR WORLD IS 6 BILLION YEARS OLD.

THE PANELING IS FROM A HUGE FERNWOOD TREE. FERNWOOD ORIGINATED SOME 10 MILLION YEARS AGO.

THE FERNWOOD PANELS INSIDE THE ALTAR ARE **17 BILLION** YEARS OLD.

fig. 19: CROSS-SECTION OF THE ENTIRE SALT CHAMBER SYSTEM

SPACE YOU CAN'T STAND IN

DORIAN FLOON

A 1

A 2 A 3

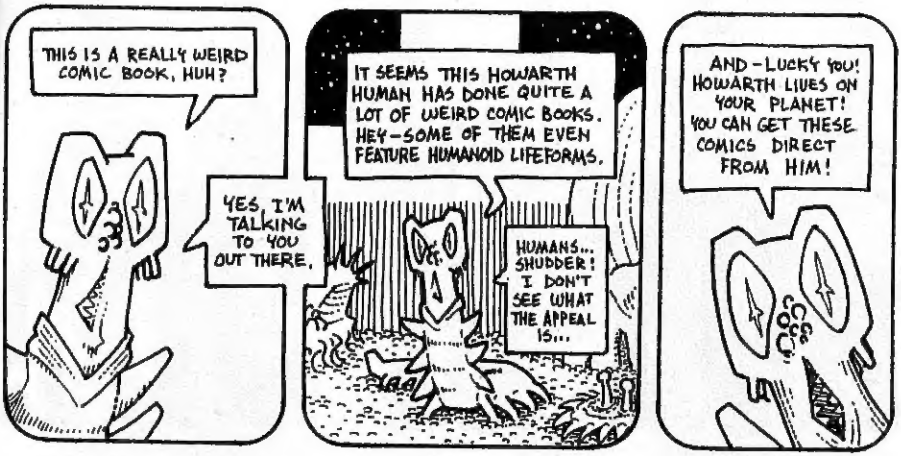
B 1

ReLeaSiNG TiMe 9:10

NeMoSPaCe PuLSe-RaTe 14:04

THe CiRCLe WiTH 3 SiDeS 16:04

THe ReCuRReNT PReSeNCe oF FiSH 39:04



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